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3 | Applicant: JON R. SCHROEDL

4 Title: MOLE TRAP

5 | Serial No: 09/746,641

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12 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97

13 In compliance with Applicant's and his attorney's duty of disclosure under 37 CFR
14 1.56, the Applicant does hereby submit the following Information Disclosure Statement,
15 Form PTO - 1449, and a copy of the reference listed thereon.

16 A patent search was manually conducted for the invention described in the above-
17 referenced patent application. In the course of the search, no patents were found for an
18 apparatus that has the same structural features or that operates in the same manner as the
19 invention listed above. The following one (1) patent, however, was noted as being of interest
20 and is hereby brought to the Examiner's attention as reference AA. The significance of the
21 listed reference is as follows:

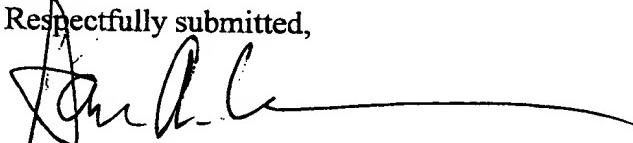
22 AA. U.S. Patent No. 5,307,587 (Zeiger et al.) discloses an animal trap, suited for
23 trapping moles, which has a frame formed by two interfitting bails or U-shaped members

1 pivotally joined at their legs to form a pair of scissor-like clamps. The distal end of each leg
2 of the U-shaped members has one-half of an animal gripping jaw which cooperates with an
3 opposing one-half of a jaw on the distal end on the adjacent leg of the associated U-shaped
4 member. A shaft extends between the legs of the U-shaped members. The opposite ends of
5 the shaft are welded to the legs of one U-shaped member. The legs of the other U-shaped
6 member are pivoted on the shaft. A pair of coil springs is mounted on the shaft the outer
7 ends of which drivingly engage the legs which are pivoted on the shaft. The inner end of each
8 spring drivingly engages a trigger lever which projects from the shaft. The driving torque
9 exerted by the springs urges the jaw halves into their closed animal-gripping condition.

10 The Applicant and his attorney submit that the above cited reference neither
11 anticipates nor renders obvious the present invention. The reference does not disclose or
12 claim a spring-activated mole trap comprising two pairs of clamping jaws with a trigger arm
13 that is activated by a mole. The trigger arm has a limiting means, to prevent access rotation
14 of the trigger arm when released, and a pivoting, Z-shaped trigger plate with upper and lower
15 trigger rod support plates. A pair of handles extending from the jaws enable the mole trap to
16 be inserted into a mole hole and a foot bar enables the jaws to be activated by the user's foot.
17 The listed reference relates only to the general field of the disclosure and do not constitute an
18 admission that the references are relevant or material to the claims; it is cited only as
19 constituting the closest art of which the Applicant and his attorney are aware.

20

21 Respectfully submitted,



22
23 DEAN A. CRAINE, Reg. No. 33,591

Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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